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UNLAMENTED, ADENAUER QUITS

Konrad Adenauer, 87, quit office on October 15th after 14 years as Chancellor of West Germany. His departure was unlamented even in the ranks of the Christian Democrats, his own party, which he has ruled with a patriarchal rod of iron.

Adenauer is succeeded by Ludwig Erhard, 66, hitherto Economics Minister, whose political philosophy has been "What is good for big business is good for the German Federal Republic".

Some political observers in Bonn and Berlin believed that the change at the top might bring some alteration in the frozen attitudes adopted by Chancellor Adenauer's cabinet during its entire term of office. Important forces in the West German business world, which are now likely to have more say in moulding policy, are believed to be rather more realistic than Adenauer, who acted as though he believed he had been personally selected by God to lead the Cold War Crusade against Communism.

A warning note that the change in the West German leadership did not necessarily mean a change in policy was sounded on October 7th by Walter Ulbricht, Chairman of the State Council of the GDR. He said: "Policies are not made simply by one person but by the dominant class. There is as yet no sign that there has been a fundamental change in the political balance of power in West Germany; it is not yet possible to speak of a 'peace policy' there."

Although Adenauer has finally been forced to relinquish the Chancellorship, he shows no signs of withdrawing from politics. He apparently aims to run the new government from behind the scenes with the aid of a "shadow cabinet" consisting of himself, Heinrich von Brentano, head of the Christian Democratic parliamentary fraction, and Franz-Josef Strauss, former Defence Minister. All three men are resolute opponents of any sort of relaxation of tension, and they may be expected to use fair means or foul to keep the new government on a stubborn cold war course.

Adenauer devoted the last few weeks of his occupation of office to a series of public pronouncements intended to bind the new government to his reactionary policy. He repeatedly went on record with statements that "relaxation of tension is an empty phrase", and attacked western countries, including the USA, for being ready to sell wheat to the Soviet Union.

Many Christian Democratic politicians admitted privately that Adenauer's public announcements were becoming increasingly embarrassing, though they ascribed some of his more curious utterances mainly to his great age. They recalled that as long ago as 1955 he had predicted the early decline of the Soviet Union "because I saw no prams during my visit to Moscow", and that this year he stated quite seriously that the rapprochement between West Germany and France was "largely based on the good conduct of the German POWs in France" after the Second World War.

AUTOBAHN INCIDENT

Cold war propagandists had a field day early in October, when they tried to play up a procedural difference on the West Berlin border into an "international crisis".

The incident occurred on October 11th–12th, when a small US military convoy driving from West Germany to West Berlin was involved in a procedural dispute with the Soviet frontier guards who check Western military units on and off the 100-mile stretch of Autobahn linking West Germany and West Berlin.

The conditions for the use of this motor highway by military transports have never been clearly defined in international agreements; a confused, and confusing, series of precedents have grown up since 1945, and arguments between American convoy officers and Soviet guards have recurred at irregular intervals over the past eighteen years.

In this latest incident, the US convoy commander tried to force his passage across the GDR frontier at the West Berlin end of the road before the Soviet guards had checked the convoy out; Soviet vehicles then blocked the road, and the US convoy was delayed for over 30 hours before agreement on procedure was reached and the convoy proceeded to West Berlin.

Observers in Bonn stated that there was some indication that the incident had been provoked by local American commanders, in cooperation with West

(cont. at foot of next page)

Globke Finally Goes

Hans Maria Globke, Chancellor Adenauer's State Secretary, and most prominent nazi war criminal in the West German Government, finally retired on October 2nd after being the target of public criticism in Germany and abroad for 13 years.

Throughout the nazi period Globke worked in a key position in the nazi Ministry of the Interior, and was personally involved in drafting almost all the laws and decrees which provided the "legal" basis for Hitler's liquidation of the Jews of Europe. In particular he drafted the Nuremberg Laws of 1935, the keystone of all nazi anti-Semitic legislation.

In post-war years Globke first came under fire in 1950, when Social Democratic MPs criticised in the West German Parliament his employment as personnel chief of the government. Then and later, Chancellor Adenauer gave his full personal protection to Globke.

Criticism of Globke intensified in 1960, when GDR research workers unearthed his personal file from the archives of the nazi Ministry of the Interior. This file, together with other documentary evidence located later, proved conclusively that Globke was the man who had drafted the Nuremberg Laws. In addition he had played a major hand in many other nazi crimes, including the mass expulsion of Poles from territories incorporated in Hitler's Reich.

After the discovery of this new evidence, a number of attempts were made to bring Globke to justice in West Germany, but Adenauer continued to protect him. Finally, on July 23rd this year, the Supreme Court of the GDR tried Globke in his absence, and sentenced him to hard labour for life, after finding him guilty of crimes against humanity, war crimes, and murder.

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GERMAN REPORT comments: Globke has now finally left office, but he leaves behind him a solid core of like-minded men in the top reaches of the Bonn administration. As Chancellor Adenauer's personal assistant, Globke had a major say in the appointment of top government officials, and it is not surprising to find that he favoured men who, like himself, had served the nazis faithfully. 12 of the 20 State Secretaries, the permanent civil servants who really run the Bonn state, held responsilble posts under the nazis. Here are a few details of the records of some of these men:

Friedrich Karl Vialon, today State Secretary in the Ministry for Development Aid, was formerly Governmental Director in the nazi-occupied Baltic states of the Soviet Union. In this capacity he supervised personally the confiscation of Jewish property.

Franz Thedieck, today State Secretary in the Ministry for All-German Questions, was formerly a top official in the nazi military administration in occupied Belgium. In this capacity he had a hand in the deportation of Belgian Jews. After the war he was sentenced to a term of imprisonment by the British authorities for giving false answers about his nazi past on a questionnaire.

Volkmar Hopf, today State Secretary in the Ministry of Defence, was formerly a local governor in occupied Czechoslovakia. Previously, as a district officer in nazi Germany, he had personally ordered that people be sent to concentration camp.

Georg Anders, today State Secretary in the Ministry of the Interior, served throughout the nazi period as Ministerial Counsellor in the Ministry of Justice. He was interned by the British authorities after the war as a "nazi activist".

(Full details of the careers of Globke's colleagues may be found in GERMAN REPORT, April 5th 1963)

(cont. from front page)

German militarist circles, to upset the present tendency towards relaxation in the German question.

It was pointed out in Berlin that the incident showed how important it is for the powers concerned to conclude a proper detailed agreement on the legal status of West Berlin and its communication routes. Until such an agreement is reached, minor local differences can be used by anti-relaxion forces to create a major incident.

Back in 1952 Walter Lippmann, one of the most serious of American political commentators, wrote: "Hardly a day passes without an incident in Berlin, or in the corridors to Berlin. They consist of incidents which have been provoked, imagined, fabricated or have just happened by accident, in a border region which is in a condition of high tension and extreme alert." *("New York Herald Tribune", June 27th 1952).*

Bonn's New Chancellor

Ludwig Erhard, new West German Chancellor, was never a member of the nazi party, but he got along very well during the nazi period. After the nazi seizure of power in 1933 he was named editor of the business magazine "Markt der Fertigware" to replace the previous editors who were removed from their posts because of "racially alien Jewishness". On taking over the editoral post he pledged that his "positive views towards the new state and the new economy are more than simply lip service". In 1942 he became head of an "Institute for Industrial Research", and was economic adviser to the nazi Gauleiter of Nuremberg.

After the war he moved rapidly up the ladder, and played a key role in pushing forward the West German currency reform in 1948 which split the country. His attitude towards trade unions, big business, and revanchism may be seen from the following quotations:

"There is no danger (to the economy) from rising prices. The danger comes from the extravagance of our people. This applies particularly to the trade unions and their exaggerated demands. I shall oppose such tendencies vigorously."

("Die Welt", Hamburg, December 12th 1959)

"Upper Silesia bears witness to German and not to Polish life. This cannot be altered, even by the fact that it is administered by Poland at this moment."

("Die Welt", August 29th 1960)

"The Allied decision to break up the firm of Krupp after the war was a product of retaliation and revenge. I express with pride my adherence to the name Krupp. It is the duty of the Government to recognise the industrial leadership of the Krupp family."

(November 1961)

BIGGER U-BOATS FOR BONN

West Germany may now build heavy U-boats up to a tonnage of 1000 tons, under a decision made by the seven-nation Western European Union on October 9th. This ruling represents another whittling away of the arms restrictions imposed on the Bonn armed forces when West Germany was rearmed under the Paris Agreements of 1954.

At that time Chancellor Adenauer signed a solemn agreement that West Germany would not "manufacture on its territory" atomic, biological or chemical weapons, guided missiles, warships of over 3000 tons, U-boats over 350 tons or strategic bombers. This pledge was used to gain support for West German rearmament from several nations, and from organisations like the British Labour Party which might otherwise have been reluctant to approve.

Since then, this apparently binding aggreement has been loopholed in two ways; first, West Germany has cooperated in the development of French nuclear weapons, but this work took place outside West German territory, and was therefore not covered by the weasel-wording of the agreement: secondly, Western European Union has progressively agreed to "modifications" of the original pledge.

Here is a list of some of the changes made in the original restrictions:

In April 1958, WEU approved West German manufacture of anti-tank missiles.

In October 1958, WEU approved West German surface-air and air-air missiles.

In December 1960, WEU approved West German construction of "fighter-bombers" capable of delivering nuclear bombs on the USSR.

In May 1961, WEU doubled the permitted size of West German warships to 6000 tons; the new ships, now on the ways, can carry nuclear weapons.

(Western European Union, an organisation scarcely ever heard of today except when it licences Bonn to build bigger and better weapons, was originally established in 1948 by Britain, France, Belgium, Holland and Luxemburg. One of its main aims was "to take such steps as may be held necessary in the event of a renewal by Germany of a policy of aggression." It was later joined by Italy, and, in 1954, by West Germany.)

Berlin & Warsaw Agree on Next Peace Steps

The Governments of Poland and the GDR announced on October 2nd the identity of their views with regard to the next steps which should be taken to ensure peace in Europe.

The announcement was made in a joint communique issued at the conclusion of a five-day visit to Poland of a GDR delegation headed by Walter Ulbricht, Chairman of the State Council. The communique stated:

"The main cause of the unrest and the threat to peace in Europe is the effort being made by the West German militarists to revise the results of the Second World War. In the interests of peace, the remnants of the Second World War must be swept aside, a peace treaty must be concluded with the two German states, and West Berlin must be converted into a free city.

"The Polish People's Republic fully supports the proposals of the GDR for a renunciation of nuclear weapons by both German states, and a ban on the stationing of such weapons on their territory."

The communique stressed that Poland and the GDR gave their full support to recent Soviet proposals for a non-aggression pact between the NATO and Warsaw Pact powers; for a reduction of arms in central Europe; and for the reduction of foreign forces stationed in both German states.

"A policy of peaceful co-existence demands the recognition of the situation which has come into being in central Europe as a result of the Second World War", the communique stated. "This entails the recognition of the existence of two German states, and the recognition of the existing frontiers in Europe, including the Polish frontier on the Oder-Neisse, the frontier between the GDR and West Germany, and the frontier between the GDR and the special territory of West Berlin."

More & Better

Productivity in industry and agriculture, modernisation and high quality products are the key-notes of the GDR plan for 1964, published on October 5th. The plan, for the first year of the Seven Year Plan covering 1964—1970, stresses quality rather than sheer quantity.

The plan foresees a 5.7 per cent increase in industrial production compared with 1963.

The biggest increase planned is in mineral oil processing; the newly constructed pipe-line from the Soviet Union will bring the first oil in July 1964 and production in this branch will shoot up 40 per cent.

Other big increases will be in general engineering (8.3 per cent) and in power production (7.7 per cent). Three new power stations will start work in 1964 and the "Black Pump" lignite works, about 100 miles south-east of Berlin, will start supplying gas to the capital.

Labour productivity should go up at least 6.5 per cent and must have the effect of reducing production costs by at least 2.8 per cent, the plan decree stated.

Basic industrial production is to increase by 6.3 per cent and consumer goods production by 4 per cent.

Investments in the chemical industry will be 8.5 per cent higher than in 1963. Compared with 1958 plastics production will be up 100 per cent, synthetic fibre 150 per cent and fuel 70 per cent.

In the metalworking industry there are to be very big increases (between 25 and 45 per cent), in production of parts used in automating the communications system and various branches of industry.

Special efforts will be made to step up the use of assembly line methods and pre-fabricated parts in the building industry, particularly in house-building.

It is planned to increase the supply of industrial consumer goods by over 6 per cent and of food and luxuries by 3.3 per cent.

More than half the families in the GDR will have television sets in 1964, 20 per cent will have washing machines and just under 20 per cent refrigerators.

The plan emphasises the importance of training more women for skilled jobs and management positions both in industry and cooperative farming. More girls must be encouraged to study scientific, technical and agricultural subjects.

"You are in the Hands of the SS"

More Names of Nazi Police Bosses

In recent months public pressure has forced the West German authorities to dismiss, or even in some cases to arrest, senior members of the West German police forces belatedly shown to have been deeply implicated in nazi crimes; but the police forces in nearly all West German provinces are still largely staffed with such men.

Writing in the West German left-wing newspaper "Die Andere Zeitung" on September 19th, German Jewish author Siegfried Einstein commented on this state of affairs, and listed some of the names of such guardians of law and order. Addressing his West German readers, Herr Einstein stated:

"He is sitting next to you, this evening, in your pub, drinking his whisky; he sits next to you in the restaurant chewing his Wiener Schnitzel... Here are some of the names:

"Otto Abel, SS Sergeant in Kiev and Lubny, a man who took part in the execution of Jews. Today he is a detective officer in Hanover.

"Josef Altmeyer, member of the SS formation 'Adolf Hitler', today head of the police department in the Ministry of the Interior in the province of North-Rhine-Westphalia.

"Berthold Boldt, lieutenant in the nazi Police Battalion 104 in Lublin, today captain of police in Hamburg.

"Karl Egle, SS officer in Yugoslavia, today chief of detective police in Freiburg.

"Rolf Favorke, officer in SS Police Regiment 4, today captain of police in Stuttgart.

"Kurt Güdler, senior SS officer, employed in the Reich Security Main Office, today head of police H. Q. in Kiel.

"Gustav Hein, member of 'Special Squad 9' renowned for its murders, today police inspector in the Bonn Security Police.

"Heribert Kammer, SS Lieutenant, Colonel and chief of police in Danzig, today head of the police office in Herford.

"Hubert Marbach, nazi police major and member of the Reich Security Main Office, today head af the police school in Bonn.

"Friedrich Nägele, nazi since 1923, SS major and chief of police in Piatigorsk, today officer in Stuttgart police H. Q.

"Josef Ochs, SS Lieutenant and member of the Reich Security Main Office, today officer in the Federal Detective Force.

"Josef Remold, SS district commander in the occupied Soviet Union, today head of the Bavarian Mobile Police.

"Albert Schulze, member of the SS formation 'Adolf Hitler' and concentration camp guard, today adminstrative officer in the gendarmerie in Hesse Province.

"Walter Unger, officer in the SS Police Regiment Griese, today police officer in Cologne.

"Hans Waschow, company commander in police battalion 22, today chief of police in Göttingen.

"Bernhard Wehner, SS Lieutenant Colonel and member of the Reich Security Main Office, today chief of detective police in Düsseldorf.

"Konrad Zimmer, member of 'Special Squad 9' renowned for its murders, today inspector in the Bonn Security Police.

"You can sleep, my friend. The same men are guarding you who worked so conscientiously and thoroughly to kill the Jews, the Poles, the Czechs, the Russians and the Yugoslavs.

"Nothing can happen to you; you are in the hands of the SS."

This Year, Next Year, Sometime...

The West German Ministry of the Interior announced on October 5th that the SS officers and Gestapo men now working in the "Office for the Protection of the Constitution" will be pensioned off. "This will take some time, since we must wait until they reach pensionable age" the spokesman announced solemnly. Civil servants in West Germany are usually pensioned at the age of 65; most of the 16 to 20 old nazi officials known to be working in the "Office for the Protection of the Constitution" are aged between 50 and 60.

"In the meantime we shall consider transferring some of these persons to less sensitive posts" the spokesman continued. "This may present some difficulties, since most of them are experts only in the field of police work."

Hamburg Editor on Trial

The editor of a weekly newspaper went on trial in Hamburg, West Germany, on October 8th, charged with "attempting to undermine the Constitution of the German Federal Republic". The accused, Ernst Aust, has edited the oppositional newspaper "Blinkfüer", which has a circulation of about 40,000 copies, since 1953.

The prosecution case, summarised in the indictment of 280 pages, is based entirely upon extracts from articles published in the newspaper. The extracts include criticism of the policy of nuclear arms for West Germany, and criticism of the employment of nazis in leading positions in the West German administration.

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Health Services in the GDR

FROM CRADLE TO GRAVE

The health service in the GDR provides complete and thorough medical treatment for all inhabitants from the cradle to the grave. The all-in health insurance scheme means that all medical expenses, ranging from headache pills to the most costly operation, are covered. In addition, a very generous sick-pay scheme means that families do not suffer when the bread-winners fall sick.

In the space of a short article it is difficult to deal with all aspects of a very complicated health service; in the main we shall deal with industrial workers and office workers, who make up the great mass of the population. Benefits vary in some respects for self-employed persons, craftsmen and so on; and some industrial groups such as miners and apprentices receive preferential treatment, particularly with regard to sick pay.

The basic principle of the GDR health service is that medical attention, hospitalisation, drugs, dental service and so on shall be provided without cost to all. This does not mean in the strict sense that they are "free", since everybody contributes through their health insurance contributions and through taxation; but it does mean that nobody is deterred from receiving medical treatment because he cannot afford it.

How does this work in practice? Let us assume that a factory worker falls sick with influenza. His doctor diagnoses the sickness, prescribes the necessary drugs, and fills out the necessary certificates. The medicines are provided free by the chemist (there is no prescription fee, and no limit on the cost of the drugs prescribed). From the very first day of his illness the worker receives sick pay amounting to 90% of his net earnings over the previous three month period.

If the sickness is more serious, then hospital treatment is also quite free, and his family receive adequate sick pay while he is in hospital, though this figure is naturally lower than when he is treated at home.

The very generous sick pay of 90% of net earnings is granted automatically for up to six weeks in any one year; if the sickness lasts longer, then sick pay drops to 50% of net earnings, though this is supplemented by a special grant from trade union funds if the patient is a union member, as nearly all workers are. If the sickness is the result of an occupational disease, or of an accident at work, then 90% sick pay continues until the patient can either return to work or is pensioned as permanently disabled.

The same free treatment applies to the wife and children of the worker, though sick pay is of course not provided in these cases.

Apart from free medicines, the medical service also provides without cost spectacles, trusses, massage, artificial limbs, wheel chairs, hearing aids, dentures and so on.

The GDR is particularly proud of the progress which has been made in preventive medicine. Polio has been practically wiped out in the past few years by free oral immunisation of all children; the incidence of TB has been slashed by X-raying the whole population and thus detecting the disease in its early stages. All children receive inoculations against TB, tetanus, diphtheria, smallpox and poliomyelitis, and against whooping-cough if desired.

In the fields of maternity care, the GDR provides a service as good as anywhere in the world. All the treatment, including pre-natal supervision, delivery and post-natal care, is of course free, and mothers are given an incentive to attend clinics by the fact that the government grant of 500 marks for the first child, rising higher for subsequent children, is only paid out in full if they have been under regular medical care.

Working mothers are given six weeks off on full pay before confinement, and eight weeks after confinement (the total period was raised from 11 weeks to 14 weeks this year), and they have full job security. No mother can be dismissed after the third month of pregnancy, and she can take unpaid leave for one year after the birth without losing her job. In addition to these standard benefits, expectant mothers in poor health are sent to special holiday homes during pregnancy.

(The difference between the health schemes in the GDR and West Germany is particularly marked in the maternity field. In the GDR more than 90% of all births take place in clinics; in West Germany the figure is only 50%. One of the main reasons for this difference is that most social insurance schemes in West Germany only pay hospital expenses in the cases of difficult or multiple births. Death rates in child-bed are five times as high in West Germany as in the GDR, mainly because of poor pre-natal service and the high proportion of home deliveries.)

For the past few years the trade unions have been responsible for the entire administration of the health service scheme in the GDR. Administration by the trade unions, with the help of 168,000 voluntary assistants elected by the workers, have made it possible to cut administrative expenses from 2% of the total sum in 1950 to only 0.6% in 1962. The trade union delegates are not only responsible for administering the funds, but also for such disparate tasks as checking labour safety precautions, supervising full use of preventive facilities provided in factory clinics, visiting sick workers at home, arranging for household help and nursing care for sick persons, checking possible abuses, and co-operating with the medical authorities in finding suitable work for expectant mothers and for persons who have been seriously ill and cannot return to their former jobs.

(In West Germany there is compulsory health insurance for workers, but it is administered by about 2000 different insurance companies. About 6% of the total income of the insurance fund goes on administrative expenses.)

Here, in conclusion, are some assorted statistics on the health services of the GDR:

There are 12.2 hospital beds per thousand inhabitants in the GDR (compared with just over 10 beds per thousand in England).

Expenditure on Mother and Child Care rose from nearly 170 million marks in 1955 to over 1,500 million marks in 1962.

The infant mortality rate dropped from 7.2 per cent in 1950 to 3.1 per cent in 1962.

The incidence of TB per 10,000 inhabitants fell from 62 in 1949 to 12 in 1962.

The number of accidents at work decreased by 11 per cent between 1952 and 1962 and the number of fatal accidents at work by 40 per cent.

"CROSS-CURTAIN" IMMIGRANTS TELL WHY THEY CAME

Every week, between 200 and 300 people leave their homes and jobs in West Germany and come to settle in the German Democratic Republic. Quite a lot of these immigrants to the GDR are in fact former citizens who were lured away to the "golden West" in past years, but have decided that they prefer life in a socialist state; but the others are people who are coming to the GDR for the first time. Why do they come, and how do they like it here? Some of the answers are given in the following four autobiographical accounts.

Here is the story of Ernst Hennig, accountant:

Looking for a job as an accountant in a factory or business office in West Germany when you have reached the age of 47 is a pretty hopeless task, especially if you are a "non-Aryan". I had been filling out application forms and turning up at interviews day after day for three months on end, but the answer was always either: "Sorry, the management had a younger man in mind — not over 35", or a non-committal "We'll let you know" after they had looked over my application form and read "anti-fascist, Jewish extraction, no army experience". But they never did let me know. Even the neighbours were liable to make anti-Semitic remarks.

My wife had no work, either, so she spent a lot of time twiddling the knobs on the radio. In the evenings we talked about what she had heard from this or that station and, of course, from the "Eastern Zone". There seemed to be a decent living and work for all over there, and nobody seemed to bother about whether you were "non-Aryan". But the West German press and radio told a different story and we did not know what to believe. The "refugees" spread hair-raising rumours, too. So I decided to take a look for myself.

At the end of 1959 I drove to West Berlin and then on into East Berlin with some misgivings, I have to admit. I wondered what would happen if "they" would not let me out again.

At police headquarters in East Berlin I received a friendly welcome and had a long talk about my difficulties, about politics, economics and about life in the two German states.

After that I drove around East Berlin, taking a good look at everything and talking to many people without let or hindrance.

Two months later I turned up at police headquarters in East Berlin again, this time to apply for citizenship of the GDR, and a fortnight later my family followed, and we settled in Erfurt.

My daughter said at first that nothing would induce her to join the Young Pioneers or the Free German Youth. There were bitter tears when she started school. She had already moved up into Class 8 in her West German school, but here she simply could not keep up at all, for she was far behind in mathematics, physics and chemistry. There was no help for it — she had to be sent down to Class 6 again. It was a real drama, I can tell you. But after a few months she came home one day and asked us to sign her application to join the Young Pioneers. I did so without a word about what she had said only a short time ago.

She is now in Class 10 and doing splendidly. She has joined the Free German Youth and helps run a group of Young Pioneers.

My wife and I are now working in a nationally owned factory, she in production and I in the administration. She is a trained nursery school teacher, but she does not feel she is up to the standard required for this work in the GDR. She runs the factory lending library, however, and enjoys helping workers to choose their books and encouraging them to read the classics.

We feel that this German state has accepted us and given us "non-Aryans" the good feeling of being respected German citizens — not lice whom somebody forgot to gas.

Valentin Ebert, railwayman, tells his story:

First let me introduce my family: myself, aged 52, foreman of a railwaymen's team; my wife, Lisette, aged 59, railway night watchman, and my two sons, Ernst, aged 28, engineer and Dieter, aged 24, officer in the People's Army. My sons came to the GDR in 1951 and 1954 and my wife and I in 1959.

In West Germany we lived in two rooms in a barracks, without a kitchen, cellar or attic. We could have had a room with kitchen for 75 marks, or two rooms with kitchen for 125 marks, but we could not possibly afford that much. My wife could not find work — too old — and I was in poor health and any jobs I could get were badly paid.

We came to Erfurt to be with our sons in 1959, and this was when we began to see things differently. In West Germany we had denied ourselves any little luxuries so as to be able to send the boys a parcel now and then, so you can imagine our surprise when our daughter-in-law in Erfurt casually remarked: "I really can't eat margarine."

We earned very little at first, for my wife still had no work and I only earned 280 marks. But now, four years later, we have a monthly income of 800 marks between us and have saved 7,600 marks. It's for the boys, but they say don't need it, for they have enough money of their own.

So now, at our age, we can go to the cinema or the theatre, drink a glass of wine when we feel like it and take care of ourselves a bit.

The story of Charlotte Knirsch, actress:

It is difficult to compare two absolutely different states like West and East Germany, and we must make a distinction between material and spiritual things. We are very comfortably situated here — my mother, my husband, my little daughter and myself.

When I married ten years ago and went to live in Hof in West Germany, we had only a furnished room and had a hard time of it for the next four years. After that we were quite comfortably off in West Germany, too. But these outward circumstances were not really so important.

What was more important was that after we married we began to think about the world we lived in and about developments in West Germany since 1945. We drew up a kind of balance. The result was negative and led to what appears to us now a very curious decision. Since we did

not like the look of things — we knew nothing about the East and the West looked less and less inviting — we decided to let things happen without us. Not that we wanted to retire to a cave in the woods or sit on top of pillars. There was little outward change in our way of living; we both went on with our work, kept up our social contacts and so on. But we refused to get involved in things and concentrated on our life together and our personal interests. For all we cared, Adenauer could stay Chancellor till Doomsday and the Third World War could come and destroy what was left from the last war. We couldn't change things, so they would have to happen without us, we thought.

But that didn't work for long. After a time we came out of our shell again, even more disappointed and desperate than ever. We now had only one idea — to get away from it all. But where were we to go? Not to the USA, for we had had a taste of this in West Germany ever since 1945. Not to Canada, either. But what about Australia? They wouldn't exactly be waiting for a newspaper editor and an actress, but Ernst, my husband, had trained as a carpenter and I could do anything from dish-washing to baby-sitting, we thought. All we wanted was to get out of there, away from the incorrigible reactionaries, stock-market jobbers and professional refugees, away from a country where human beings were no more important than cars.

We began to read books and write letters. We went to the Australian Embassy in Munich, filled out an application form and sent in our papers. And one day there were two letters in our letter-box — one from Munich telling us that our application to enter Australia had been granted and the other from a friend who had emigrated to Australia two years before.

"Stay where you are till I get back", he wrote.

"You'll be treated like dirt over there", he told us when he arrived. "So if that's what you want..."

Well, that was the end of our dream of going to Australia.

By a lucky chance we received an invitation to visit the GDR. When Ernst drove away the first time I watched him go as if he were off to the front. When he returned I learned about another Germany from his accounts and from the photographs he brought with him. After that we got to know the GDR better and better every year.

We knew now which Germany was worth working and fighting for. It wasn't easy. It would probably have been easier washing dishes in Australia than demonstrating against atom bombs in Bayreuth, distributing German Peace Union leaflets at factory gates or pasting up posters at election time. Every time Ernst had to make an election speech I was afraid of what might happen. Our telephone was tapped and people wrote anonymous threatening letters.

Ernst was a political journalist. I could see the end coming, even though his editor was a Social Democrat, and he was in fact gradually squeezed out his job. Of course, he could have gone on working as a non-political journalist, but he did not want to do that.

We hesitated a long time — not so much about whether we should come to the GDR as whether we ought to leave our friends in West Germany. But we finally decided that we could help the cause of peace and justice better in the GDR.

We have been here over a year now, and we find it much, much better than we had expected.

This is the story of Gisbert Kaliske, engineer:

One summer day in 1959 two men appeared in my office in Kaiserslautern, West Germany, and announced that they had come to arrest me. I was charged with endangering the state.

I shall have to go back some years to explain this. At the end of World War Two I landed in Braunschweig in West Germany; my former home had been east of the Oder river in what is now part of Poland. As a Christian I thought I ought to join the West German Christian Democratic Union. I had no special political ambitions, but I did feel that something ought to be done to get us out of the mess we were in at that time.

At first I was busy with all the usual practical things — finding a place to live, getting hold of a few sticks of furniture and so on. Later on I was the first CDU member of the predominatly left-wing Braunschweig city parliament. I worked on various committees and imagined I had some influence on public life in the city. But I soon found out that things were really decided by a few people and that politics were only meant to make the rich richer.

As soon as the CDU found out how critical I was the party lost interest in me. I resigned in 1951 and after that I began to look into socialist theories. Two years later I joined the Social Democratic Party, but this didn't satisfy me, either, for I very soon realised they were not putting up any serious resistance to the CDU.

The real turning-point in my life came when I visited the Sports Festival in Leipzig in 1956. I had been in the GDR before, and my wife and I came many times after that, for my parents live in Wittstock. When I returned home I used to tell friends and relatives about these trips. And of course I didn't just tell them about the scenery; I also told them that not everything they read in the papers about the GDR was true.

As a matter of fact, that is my whole story until the day those men came to arrest me. I was detained seven months for investigations. Some prison guards were decent, but there were also some who called me a "swine" and a "traitor". When I was finally brought up for trial I had to be acquitted since there was no real evidence against me.

But that was not the end of the matter for me. I was thrown out of the sewing machine factory in which I had worked as an engineer and plastics specialist and when I looked for other jobs I found I had been black-listed; my special technical knowledge didn't help me.

After I had been unemployed for six months someone tipped me off that the men from the Office for the Protection of the Constitution would soon be knocking at my door again. So we packed our bags.

I am now lecturing at the College of Engineering in Karl Marx Stadt and working on a research project.

GDR-Radio in English

Radio Berlin International, the Voice of the German Democratic Republic, broadcasts daily programmes of news and comment in English.

Listeners in Europe can hear Radio Berlin International best at 20.15 GMT (264 metres, 1133 kc) and at 22.00 GMT (210 metres, 1430 kc).

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BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By John Peet

The nazi past is nearer than you might think in Germany, even in the GDR; and I mean this quite literally. A few days ago my daughter Miriam, aged seven, came rushing into our flat in the centre of Berlin, bursting with important news. "Daddy" she shouted, "there are a lot of policemen down in the garden digging up old books". It sounded a rather unlikely story, but I went downstairs to have a look.

My daughter was quite right. Just round the corner of the house where I live, on a piece of waste ground where a building used to stand before it was bombed out, a group of perspiring policemen were digging in a hole about four feet deep, and handing up great wads of damp and clayey paper, which were being carefully loaded into a police car.

I took a look at one of the better-preserved fragments; it was the medical file of an SS man, with details of his ancestry (strictly Aryan, of course), his dental fillings, his "natural posture" which I was intrigued to see described non-praetorially as "sloppy", and, most interestingly of all, with a full and detailed description of his "political development".

One of the diggers told me what had happened, and how the paper mine had been discovered. Workers digging the foundations for a garden wall had hit some decaying planks, and delving deeper, had struck the files. They immediately saw that they had found old nazi documents, and called the police, who were now saving what they could from the half-decayed mass.

There was no indication as to how these documents came to be in that particular spot, but the bombed out building had housed various SS offices during the nazi period, and apparently two wooden crates of documents had been secretly buried there just before the end of the war.

The rotting mass of paper will now be carted off to the Central Archives of the German Democratic Republic, where experts will see whether any interesting information can be salvaged. The information that SS Corporal Horst Schmidt had a typhoid injection in 1940 is unlikely to interest anyone today; but it is just possible that the biographical data may be of use in nailing some war criminal who has so far gone undetected.

What really annoys me is to think that I have ben living only 20 yards away from a cache of nazi documents for over ten years and did not know anything about it. I am now considering launching a quiet rumour that some of the gold reserves of the SS are still concealed somewhere in the vicinity; this may encourage some of the lazier occupants of the block of flats where I live to take a hand in the big job of digging we still have to do before we can turn all of the waste-land round the house into a pleasant garden.

Little Europe

Everybody knows the old story about the London newspaper headline "Continent Cut Off" when there was a lot of fog in the channel, but have you ever realised that there is a similar insularity, not confined to inhabitants of the British Isles, when politicians and newspapers talk today about "European Cooperation", the "European Community", and so on. What they almost always mean is, in fact, "Western Europe". If you take a look at a map, or a modern table of statistics, you will see that today two-thirds of the total area of Europe lies in the socialist world. The western one-third of Europe is, however, more densely populated than the eastern two-thirds, so that the population is about equally divided between the two halves. (Since I am being critical of loose terminology, I must hasten to explain that "eastern" and "western" in the previous sentence are being used as a convenient shorthand; I know that Greece, Finland, Sweden and bits of other countries are geographically more "eastern" than some socialist countries.)

And of course there is a similar laxity with regard to the word "Germany". For the past fourteen years there have been two separate German states, the (West) German Federal Republic and the (East) German Democratic Republic, and it is not only technically wrong but very misleading to say "Germany" when you mean "West Germany". I note with regret that even sensible people who know the difference full well often fall into this trap.

Top Bonn People

On another page of this issue we note that Adenauer's State Secretary Hans Globke, the man who drafted the nazi anti-Semitic legislation, has finally retired, and nearly every week some other old nazi who has made a good career in West Germany leaves office because of age. But the evil that men do lives after them, and this does not mean the new generation of Top Bonn People will be any more desirable.

Walter Ulbricht, Chairman of the State Council of the GDR, referred to this fact in a speech in Warsaw on September 30th:

"The time is now coming when a number of the old Hitlerites are leaving office (in West Germany) because of age. This biologically inevitable development is being utilised in order to try and persuade people, particularly foreigners, that Bonn is finally getting rid of some of the most seriously incriminated war criminals. It would be very dangerous to fall for this gag. For eighteen years these war criminals, nazi diplomats, Hitlerite generals and so on have had time to establish their old friends, and to groom for leading positions people who were too young under Hitler, but who have been completely poisoned politically and ideologically. They have had eighteen years to infect young people, who passed directly from the anti-Communism of the nazi period into the anti-Communism of the Bonn militarists, with the poison of revanchism, and with a spirit of hatred towards the GDR and the other socialist countries.

"We must therefore continue to be vigilant, and continue our struggle against West German revanchism on all fronts."

Corny Story

West Germany's new chancellor, Ludwig Erhard, came to the top in West German politics as the result of a translation error. In 1947 a certain Herr Semmler was director of the economics branch of the Anglo-American Zone of Germany. He wrote to the Americans asking urgently for supplies of "Korn", which means grain. The translator made this "corn", and the Americans supplied a lot of corn, the US name for maize. Herr Semmler flew into a rage, and publicly criticised the Americans for trying to make hungry Germans eat " chicken-feed". The Americans flew into a rage, sacked Herr Semmler, and appointed Erhard in his place. Since then he has never looked back.

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